



SR1018

LRB103 40899 MST 73877 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, On February 5, 2024, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a notice of proposed rulemaking to issue a new safety and health standard, titled Emergency Response, to replace the existing Fire Brigades Standard, 29 C.F.R 1910.156; and

3

4

WHEREAS, OSHA has requested public comment on the proposed rulemaking that is scheduled to conclude June 21, 2024; and

5

6

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has an OSHA-approved state plan; Illinois OSHA has adopted all OSHA standards in 29 CFR 1910; all proposed changes, if adopted, become compulsory for all Illinois fire departments; and

7

8

9

10

WHEREAS, While the proposed provisions by OSHA intend to improve the safety of emergency responders, compliance with many of the new OSHA requirements would be financially burdensome and, in some cases, unfeasible for volunteer fire and emergency service departments; and

11

12

13

14

15

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has 1,107 registered fire departments, 65.2% of which are fully volunteer and 14.1% are mostly volunteer; and

16

17

18

19

20

1           WHEREAS, OSHA's economic impact analysis of the potential  
2 changes lists the average annualized cost per organization at  
3 \$14,551 for volunteer departments and \$18,853 for mixed  
4 departments; and

5           WHEREAS, Volunteer fire protection districts in Illinois  
6 have limited resources, and any additional costs would hamper  
7 fire protection safety; and

8           WHEREAS, OSHA is unable to certify that the proposed rule  
9 will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial  
10 number of small entities; and

11           WHEREAS, OSHA's proposed rules have triggered the need for  
12 an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA) mandated by  
13 the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) to determine the true  
14 cost to local fire departments; and

15           WHEREAS, Fire protection districts, especially volunteer  
16 fire departments, are an important pillar of public safety in  
17 Illinois; therefore, be it

18           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge OSHA and the  
20 federal government to not implement new fire protection  
21 standards that will place a financial burden on public safety;

1 and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That we urge OSHA and the federal government to  
3 conduct further analysis on the proposed changes to minimize  
4 the financial burden on small-entity volunteer fire  
5 departments; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be sent  
7 to all members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation.